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Master PIMMES SPEECH TO THE LORDS IN Parliament,

Sitting in Westminster Hall
the twelfth of Aprill,
1641.

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Mr. Speaker

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MASTER *PIMMES* Speech to the Lords in Parliament, sitting in Westminster Hall the twelfth of Aprill. 1641.

My Lords,

THere hath been much time spent to prove our Charge, and your Lordshippes have heard my Lord of Straffords defence with as much patience. You have also heard our Evidence summed up whereby wee have proved that hee hath by traiterous words Councels and Actions, traiterously endeavoured to subvert

vert the fundamentall Lawes of England and Ireland, and in ſtead thereof to introduce an Arbitrarie and tyrannicall Government againſt Law. This (my Lords) is that poyſonous Arrow that hath tainted his blood, this is that Cup of deadly wine that hath intoxicated him.

My Lords, It coms to my ſhare to ſhew you how miſchievous an Act of Treaſon it is by that Law that hee hath appealed unto, which is the ſupreame Law, (to wit) publike good, for his Poſition was this, That *Salus Populi*, is *Suprema Lex*. All Lawes are derived from this as its fountaine, and end here as its proper Center. And thoſe Actions that are oppoſite to this are againſt Law.

First, My Lords, It is ſuch an offence as comprehends all offences, ſuch a treaſon as comprehends all treaſons.

The Earth (my Lords) is a Seminarie of all flowers, ſo is this a Seminarie

manarie of all offences.

My Lords, this Law puts a difference betwixt good and evill; take away the Law (my Lords) and Nature becomes a Law to it selfe. As Pride will bee a Law, Lust will bee a Law, Rapine a Law, Treason a Law, which Lawes have ruled in Ireland ever since my Lord came thither.

Take away the Kings protection from the people, and you take away the peoples allegiance to the King. Prerogative is the bounds of libertie, and (my Lords) they must not contest one against another.

My Lords, I beseech you consider, yee have all under this custodie; and if you take away this, you take away your goods, liberties and lives.

My Lord hee saith, that Ireland was a conquered Nation, why? were not all Nations conquered? England, Wales, &c.

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The next is this, that it is an offence full of danger to the Kings person and Crowne, it nourisheth dissention and tumults in a people. If you consider the histories of the Nations under arbitrary government, you shall find them full of cruelty and bloody Massacres; yea, if you please to peruse our English histories, you shall finde that when Arbitrarie government was set up, how many Kings fell by cruell and bloody hands, which is feare-full to relate.

Thirdly, my Lords, It is dangerous to the King, First, in respect of his honour, Secondly, in respect of his profit, and Thirdly, in respect of his greatnesse: yet all these have beene put on upon the face of this Treason as so many vizards, (can it be (my Lords) for the Kings honour, to have his Ministers to lay all the fault upon the King? To kill, to imprison, to use Rapine, to levie warre against his people, and to ruine

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the State, and then all these dishonourable acts to bee laid on the King? Is this for the Kings honour?

Secondly, It is contrary to his profit, for if there bee not an affectionate supply from the people to the King, hee can never grow in his revenue.

Nay, this (my Lords) is the Kings most certaine Revenue, that issues from the affection of his people, for other Revenue, as Lands, or the like, are subject to many Inconveniences, to many substractions and pensions, but this is free and wholly to himselfe, these fourteene yeares past, since there hath beene an unhappy cessation of Parliamentary proceedings, the King hath had lesse Revenue, and it doth him lesse good.

Nay, there hath beene more wanting to the King, than many yeers before. Againe, it is unprofitable, and that is worse, for the King lost by it, for it hath cost him these two yeares more than it cost Queene *Eli-*

zabeth in all her warres in Ireland and Spaine, yea, (I feare) more than is to bee repaired in an age.

Thirdly, in point of greatneſſe; the World is a ſociety of Kingdomes, and it is not enough for a King to be great at home, but to equall his fellow Princes abroad, Nay to bee above them in honour and Majeſtie, in Riches and glory.

But my Lords theſe Counſells of late that have beene given his Majeſty, have rendred him contemptible to his enemies, uſeleſſe to his diſtreſſed friends, and had they not beene prevented, in time would have made him uncapable of any deſigne at home or abroad.

A fourth Conſideration is thīs, my Lords, it is deſtructive to wealth and valour; it corrupts our peace, and in peace, makes us have the malignities of Warre: and for wealth, who will venture his goods, life, his liberty in the way

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of trading and commerce, when hee knowes not upon the returne of it' whether it be his owne or not.

Nay, my Lords, it imbaſeth the ſpirits, and valour of a Nation, when they muſt ſtand in feare of pilloring, ſcaffolding, and the like punishments, it makes men to bee of baſe ſpirits.

Now my Lords, to imbaſe the Kings Coyne, if it be but ſix pence or twelve pence, tis Treaſon by the Law, and a man muſt dye for it: what is it then to imbaſe our ſpirits, my Lords? truly it is a matter of great importance.

Fifthly it doth diſable the King, and makes him unfit to deale with forraigne enemies, for every one thinks to ſlip his necke out of the collar, when hee ſhall bee forced to it.

The ſixt conſideration is, that it is againſt the Covenant betwixt the King and his people.

Before my Lords I ſpoke of a legall Oath, but now I ſpeake of a perſonall, for we ſweare our allegeance to him, and he the maintenance of our Lawes to us: he is our husband, and we his wife; he is our father, and we his children: he is to maintaine our liberties, and we his Dignities, and our duties.

And my Lords, *Iuſtice Thorpe* was condemned and executed, for breaking the Kings oath: My Lords, he broke not his owne oath, nor did the King breake his oath, and yet for violating that oath, that the King had taken to his Subjects, he ſuffered.

Ah what an unfortunate man then

is

is the Prisoner at the Barre, that hath in all his Counsels, in all his words, in all his actions, broken the Kings oath, and as much as in him lay, violently perswaded the King to countenance him in all his actions?

The seaventh consideration is this my Lords, it is against the end of government, for the end of government is to preserve men in their estates, lives, and liberties, but an Arbitrary power destroyes all this: the end of government is to advance vertue and goodnesse, and to punish vice: but this cherisheth all disorder.

Now my Lords, I come to shew the vanity of his excuses, that he hath made for himselfe.

The first is the liberty of giving Counsell, being a Counsellor, true my Lords, he hath this liberty, but its bounded within its lists, and it must be such a Counsell as must stand with the sacred Majesty, and the prosperity and weale of his Subjects, for if Counsell be bad, it poysons the Consciences of Princes, it infects their eares, for all government proceedes from the Prince, as from a fountaine: now if the fountaine bee poysoned, how can the streames bee free?

A second shift is, that hee hopes your Lordships will bee carefull to secure your posterity, and not to admit of this as Treason.

My Lords, I know your Lordships will be carefull to secure your selves, but by your vertues, not by your vices.

The third excuse is, the goodnesse of

of his intentions: truly, my Lords, good and evill lye close together, not easily to be discerned, if they be naturall corruptions, but for Murthers, Adultery, Rapines, and Treasons, these are so monstrous, that they may easily be distinguished.

And I cannot bee perswaded that ever he intended well, that acted so ill.

The Fourth excuse is the Kings necessities.

My Lords, this necessity came from his owne counsels.

A fifth excuse is, that it was for the Kings honour, and the maintenance of the Kings power.

My Lords, it hath bin declared unto you, that the Kings power doth not extend to any thing against Law, by which he hath sworne to rule us,

and

and to maintaine out Liberties and priviledges for us, and this hath bin declared by five Parliaments, and also will appeare in the case of the Petition of Right, and in the case of shipmoney.

A sixt is, that hee advised the King to do it with moderation and reparation.

My Lords this is a contradiction, for there can bee no reparation for this.

The seaventh excuse is, that no horrid facts did follow his Counsels: truly my Lords we thanke God, his sacred Majesty, and his wise Counsell for that, or else God knowes what fearefull things would have befallen us, nor are wee free from it as yet.

To conclude, now my Lords, give me leave to entreat you to consider

ſider the Treaſons ordinarily practiſed, when the act is done, they ceaſe as in killing that noble King of *Fraunce*, and the ſeverall plots againſt Queene *Elizabeth*, but this Treaſon of my Lord of *Strafforde*, is a ſtanding Treaſon, which when it had bin done, it had bin permanent from generation to generation.

And now my Lords, theſe lawes that he would have overthrown, muſt now bee his Judges, and hee is to be Judg'd by law, and that law will have marke enough of it to deſcribe it, for it is a law againſt ſuch as breake the fundamentall law of the Kingdome.

And my Lords give me leave to informe you that under favour this is not to make a new way for blood, nor is the crime of Treaſon in my Lord of *Strafford* the leſſe, becauſe

none would venture upon ſuch a horrid Treaſon, in two hundred and forty yeares.

But my Lords, for the making of our charge good by law, as wee have fully proved it by Teſtimony, we muſt reſort to Counſell, with the houſe of Commons, and truſt to your Lordſhips Juſtice.

FINIS.